



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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June 23 2004

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LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS ISSUED CIVIL PENALTIES AT ENFORCEMENT HEARING

Olympia – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Earl Tilly, found 55 elected officials in violation of state Public Disclosure laws during brief enforcement hearings held Monday in Olympia.

Elected officials and certain state appointed officials are required under state statute to file an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement with the Public Disclosure Commission by April 15th reporting financial activity for the preceding year.

“Filing reports that disclose financial interests and holdings is more than a formality,” Tilly said. “It’s a means for the public to have tangible proof that officials are acting in the public interest and not for their private gain.”

The governmental officials who were issued a civil penalty had previously been sent a warning letter asking them to comply with the reporting requirements. A letter reminding each official of his or her obligation to file was sent on May 7, 2004 and letter with an opportunity to pay a civil penalty and forego an enforcement hearing was sent on May 28, 2004.

Government officials from Southeast Washington who were assessed a penalty at the brief enforcement hearing were:

Lorene Uptmor, School Director for the Asotin-Anatone School District, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100 with the entire penalty suspended upon the condition the disclosure report is filed within two weeks of the date of the order.

Matthew Stolberg, Commissioner for the Garfield Public Hospital District, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100 with \$50 suspended upon the condition he have no further violations of the Disclosure Law for one year.

Otis Osborne, Treasurer for Walla Walla County, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$300.

Tilly found no violation against **Bernard Yanke**, City Council Member of the City of College Place.

Officials found in violation at the hearing will have an opportunity to ask the full, five-member Commission to review the action taken by the Chair.